

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

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TAGS: PINT CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: CONTINUING REACTIONS TO BISHOPS' CAMPAIGN
TO DEFROCK MAKARIOS.

REF: NICOSIA 490 AND 494

1. MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FROM PATRIARCHS OF JERUSALEM
AND ALEXANDRIA, AS WELL AS GREEK ARCHBISHOP IERONOMOS'
REPORTED CONDEMNATION BISHOPS' EXFORDS DEFROCK MAKARIOS,
RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE GREEK CYPRIOT NEWS MEDIA OVER
WEEKEND. PATRIARCH BENEDICTOS OF JERUSALEM QUOTED AS
OFFERING MAKARIOS HIS " UNDIVIDED SUPPORT" WHILE CONDEMNING
BISHOPS FOR DISRUPTING CHURCH UNITY IN ACTION THAT IS
" UNFOUNDED AND IRREGULAR AND. CONSEQUENTLY, NULL AND
VOID." PATRIARCH MICOLAS OF ALEXANDRIA ALSO DENOUNCED
BISHOPS' ACTION AS VIOLATING CANON LAW. ADDITIONALLY,
CYPRUS RADIO QUOTES ARCHBISHOP IERONOMOUS' " PRIVATE
OPINION" THAT BISHOPS' ACTION UNLAWFUL SINCE 12
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BISHOPS REQUIRED TO DEFROCK CHURCH PRELATE.

2. ALTERNATE XON MIN KAVALIERATOS' MARCH 10 STATEMENT, THAT GREEK GOVT WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS WITH " GREAT ANXIETY" AND HOPES ALL PARTIES WILL REFRAIN FROM MOVES WHICH MIGHT WORSEN SITUATION, VIEWED AS ENCOURAGING SIGN BY MAKARIOS SUPPORTERS. PRO- GOVT PHILELFEFOTHEROS, NOTING THAT MAKARIOS' POLICY IS ALSO THAT OF GREEK GOVT, PREDICTS AMB LAGACOS' CONSULTATIONS WILL RESULT IN " SILENCING REPLY" FROM ATHENS TO BISHOPS.

3. ONLY PRO- GRIVAS GNOMI AND EHNIKI SUPPORT BISHOPS. GNOMI CLAIMS BISHOPS' DECISION BASED ON CANON LAW AND, HENCE, VALID; WHILE ETHNIKI REPEATS GRIVAS' DETERMINATION DEFEND BISHOPS AND ISSUES THINLY VEILED THREAT ASSASSINATE MAKARIOS IF HE MOVES AGAINST THEM. COMMENT: PIO CHRISTODOULOU TELLS US GOVT MAY BE FORECED VLOSE DOWN SOME OPPOSITION PAPERS IF THEY CONTINUE PREACH WHAT HE CALLS SUBVERSION.
POPPER

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